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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP  
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY China

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE:

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SUBJECT Political and Economic Information:  
Future Plans of Torgpredstvo Reflect USSR  
Anticipations of New Trade Policy in China

DIST. 22 November 1947

PAGES 2

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1. It is the prevailing opinion among responsible Soviet personnel in Shanghai that the present period in China is one of transition. These persons expect radical changes in the United States policy vis-a-vis China, and, as a result, an imminent change in the USSR policy vis-a-vis China and the United States in China. There is evidence that the USSR is preparing for such changes. Preparations consist of repatriation of the surplus Soviet population and relocation of existing Soviet merchants, firms and enterprises. Local Soviet merchants in Shanghai are undergoing a final screening, as a result of which some will be pressed to proceed to the USSR, some will proceed to Hongkong and further south, some will remain in China, while others will be transferred to South America and even to the United States.

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2. At present the Shanghai office of Torgpredstvo is awaiting the results of General Wedemeyer's report and further actions by the United States in China. Shanghai leaders of Torgpredstvo hold the opinion that substantial aid by the United States to China is forthcoming and that this is one of the conditions which will lift the restrictions on foreign trade in China. Consequently, the USSR can expect in the future a somewhat more liberal Chinese policy on foreign trade. In line with such reasoning, Torgpredstvo has encouraged M. Sulevich of the Union Steamship Company, as well as other Shanghai Soviet merchants, to remain in Shanghai a little longer. Note: Torgpredstvo is "Commercial Representation" of the USSR.

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3. During August 1947 the Shanghai office of Torgpredstvo, through M. Dobrokhotoy, initiated a series of conferences with local Soviet merchants to determine their plans and financial condition, and made a final screening of these merchants to determine which of them shall be prepared to proceed to the USSR during the next year and which of them will be entitled to new positions in China and abroad, including the United States.

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